Floods in Himachal Pradesh

*139. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent floods in Himachal Pradesh created havoc;

(b) if so, whether India has shown its concern to China over the lake from Tibet;

(c) whether in the wake of alarm rise in the level of Pareechu river, China has promised regular exchange of information and data with India regarding formation of an artificial lake on it at Tibet; and

(d) to what extent this assurance has been helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by Government of Himachal Pradesh the recent floods caused a damage estimated to around Rs. 610 crore. A landslide on River Parechu which flows from Tibet into Himachal Pradesh and subsequent formation of a barrier lake in Tibet in July, 2004 created a crisis in view of the possible flash floods in downstream areas that may arise in case of bursting of landlside dam. Government took up the matter with the Chinese side to avert the crisis in a timely and proactive mannner through diplomatic channels as well as through the Border Personnel Meetings. In this connection, inter Ministerial Technical Teams also visited China in September, 2004 at Lhasa and Beijing in December, 2004. During the visit of Secretary. Water Resources to China in March, 2005 important progress was reached on Parechu issue.

(c) and (d) During the visit of Chinese Premier to India in April, 2005, in response to the concerns expressed by the Indian side, Chinese side agreed to take measures for controlled release of accumulated water of the landside dam on river Parechu as soon as conditions permit. An agreement has also been reached on provision of hydrological data by China to India during the flood season in respect of river Sutlej after establishment of the hydrological station upstream of river Sutlej on the Chinese side.

Following the flash floods of river Sutlej in June, 2005, the Chinese side has confirmed that the base structure of landslide dam has been destroyed or washed away and the artificial lake on river Parechu no longer poses any threat to downstream areas.

Supply of EURO-II and EURO-III Fuel in Karnataka

*140. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Euro-III grade fuel is being supplied through petrol and diesel outlets in Bangalore;

(b) if so, how many petrol pumps are supplying it;

(c) the steps taken to supply Euro-III fuel in more number of petrol pumps;

(d) what are the steps taken to supply Euro-II diesel in Bangalore; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to supply Euro-III and Euro-II in other cities in Karnataka.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) All the retail outlets in the Bangalore Metropolitan area, numbering 238, are supplying Euro-III equivalent petrol and diesel which is superior to Euro-II grade petrol and diesel.

(e) In consonance with the auto fuel policy, Bharat Stage-II petrol and diesel is being supplied in Karnataka with effect from 1-4-2005. As regards the introduction of Euro-III equivalent fuels in other cities of Karnataka, Government have decided to hold a review in the year 2006 to assess the impact of Bharat Stage-II and Euro-III equivalent in he country, before taking a decision on implementing Euro-III equivalent norms in the country with effect from 1-4-2010.